

Serial No. 09/912,049 to Rehberger et al.
Art Unit: 1651 – Attorney Docket AGP-32506
Response to May 3, 2004 Office Action
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Amendments to the Specification

Page 10, line 16 – Page 11, line 4, replace the paragraph with the following:

In a preferred embodiment, the microorganism is of the genus *Propionibacterium* and more preferably *P. acidipropionici* and *P. jensenii*. Preferred strains of bacteria include *P. acidipropionici* and *jensenii* strains P169, P170, P179, P195, and P261, especially strain, P169. The P169 and P170 strains are available from the microorganism collection of the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA. 20110, under accession numbers ATCC PTA-5271 and ATCC PTA-5272, respectively, and were deposited on June 18, 2003. All of the preferred strains were found to have group 1 genomic profiles (as defined below). Therefore, other strains of *P. acidipropionici* or *P. jensenii* that have a group 1 genomic profile and which have a common identifying characteristic of successful performance in the present invention are also preferred strains. These other strains are referred to hereinafter as "genetic equivalents."

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